

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

APRIL 12, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held April 12, 2016, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING -

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Member arriving late: Mrs. Kelly Scarfe (5:51 p.m.)

Member absent: Mr. Tom Neeley

Closed Session -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase/sale of property, litigation, negotiations and/or school building safety and security. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 5:49 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 6:32 p.m.

Adjournment -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mr. Heinold, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Michelle Bernier called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Dr. Shad Beaty, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall

Member absent: Mr. Tom Neeley

Audience Presentations –

Mr. Todd Sauder of Morton addressed the Board concerning the newly created Inclusion Specialist position in the District this school year. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the late Ms. Dana Ashby who developed this position and hired Mrs. Ashlie King as the Inclusion Specialist. Due to Ms. Ashby's passing in December, a planned update to the Board on the position was unable to occur. He read a portion of a letter he had prepared for Ms. Ashby to include in the update, as he has a son who has been positively impacted by Mrs. King. He urged the Board to maintain the position of Inclusion Specialist as a full time position for the future.

Mrs. Wendy Sauder of Morton addressed the board concerning the Inclusion Specialist position. As a former special education teacher, she stressed the importance of this position as general education teachers do not have the tools and supports to include special education students in the classroom.

Mrs. Becky McDaniels of Morton addressed the board concerning the importance of the Inclusion Specialist position. She noted her daughter has had an amazing year with the addition of Mrs. King.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve February Treasurer's Report
- Approve Overnight Trip – MHS Marching Band Camp
- Approve 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule
- Approve Re-Employment of Professional Staff
- Approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2016, Regular Meeting and the March 15, 2016, Regular meeting Closed Session Minutes.

Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 3-14-16	Bills 3-18-16	Bills 3-24-16	Bills 4-8-16	Payroll 3-18-16	Payroll 4-1-16
Ed. Fund	\$109.16	\$10,360.98	\$121,297.95	\$153,206.53	\$463,500.99	\$461,751.80
Bldg. Fund	--	14,701.31	98,200.00	158,715.20	32,945.99	33,585.37
Trans. Fund	--	--	14,571.60	107,586.08	13,269.03	14,725.45
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	--	410,183.88	412,276.07

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

President Bernier announced that with the passage of the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the hiring of a new PE/Health/Driver Ed. teacher and varsity football coach, Mr. Tim Brilley. Also approved was Ms. Carlen Owens as Director of Student Support Services. In this newly expanded position, Ms. Owens will be director of special education and administrate student support services such as RtI, ELL and Challenge.

Both Mr. Brilley and Ms. Owens were in attendance at the meeting and were introduced.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported the district fulfilled three Freedom of Information requests during the month of March. The requests and District’s responses are posted on the website.

Recognition of MHS Lady Potters –

The Board of Education recognized the MHS Lady Potters for their triumph as back-to-back state champions. Coach Bob Becker introduced each team member and noted they not only are a great team, they are also leaders off the court, as they are involved in several acts of community service throughout the year. He also noted a collective GPA of 3.9 among them.

Recognition of MPTV Volunteers –

President Bernier noted that Morton Potter TV (MPTV) is the broadcasting brand for the Morton School District. It airs locally on Comcast Channel 20 and iTV3 Channel 21.

Programs are also live streamed on the internet through the NFHS Network, affiliated with the IHSA. MPTV produces about 160-170 programs each school year including sports, music programs, graduation, Town Hall meetings, Board of Education meetings and other occasions as they arise. MPTV has received from the NFHS Network the "Select School" status for two years for excellence in broadcasting. MPTV produces many DVD requests of various programs for a fee. DVD files go back to 2009-10 and work is currently ongoing to convert recordings from the VHS format from earlier years. This school year the district partnered with Bradley University to provide opportunities for broadcasting/communications majors to become part of the MPTV team.

The MPTV crew is the heart of the brand. Without these people, the amount of programming produced would be much less. It takes a crew of about eight to produce a home football or basketball game. Music programs can be covered by one person, with Board of Education meetings using a crew of two.

Announcers include: Craig Wright, Brian Gordon, Dylan Corbet, Jonathan Farrell, Kirk Schick, Ryan Lindley, Ralph Mattia, Lynn Rudin, Deidre Ripka, Bill Seidell, Jordan Wright and Luke Detloff.

Camera/Tech/Audio – Bill Schock, Lynn Coverstone, Carol Jankowski, Hayley Hochstettler, Blake Hochstettler, Becky Christianson, Scott Brown, Jeff Stephens and Janet Stephens.

President's Report –

President Bernier reported:

- This year's Retirement Reception will be held on Wednesday, May 11, from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center lobby.
- The summer governing meeting of the Central IL Valley Division of the IASB will be held on Wednesday, May 4.
- She and Mr. Heinold attended a recent Labor Management meeting. Mrs. Therese Scifres will continue as MEA President for next school year.

Discussion Items –

Board Goal Discussion – Communication –

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goal of Communication – *Provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.* She noted the first three months of this year were focused on meeting with many groups and individuals to convey the facts about the referendum that was held on March 15. Dr. Hall mentioned a plan to hold a State of the Schools event on August 30 that will include a community dinner.

Code of Conduct – #2

Mr. Bill reviewed the second point in the Code of Conduct for Board of Education members: *I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.* He noted this is fairly clear and that all are here to do the work of the school district.

2016-2017 Student Fees –

The Board reviewed the recommended student fees for the upcoming school year. The administration is recommending an increase in lunch prices, which will continue to increase slightly each year not only due to food costs, but also due to the federal requirement that the gap be closed in the difference between our lunch prices and the federal reimbursement rate for free/reduced lunches. The recommended increase in lunch prices is:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>2015-16 Price</u>	<u>2016-17 Price</u>
Elementary	\$2.25	\$2.35
Junior High	\$2.35	\$2.45
High School	\$2.45	\$2.55
Adult & Visitor Lunch	\$2.75	\$2.85
Milk	\$.50	\$.50

The administration is recommending that the fee for student parking at the High School be increased from \$45 to \$75.

No fee increases are being recommended for textbook rentals, technology fee, co-curricular activities, drivers' education, library fine, athletic gate receipts, I.D. replacements and Marching Band.

1st Reading and Discussion of Board Policy Revisions from Section 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 –

Dr. Hall noted that a revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB Policy PRESS services and legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board of Education for discussion and a first reading. It is recommended that the Board review the suggested changes, conduct the First Reading of these Board Policies' revisions and approve and/or adopt the newly revised policies at a future meeting. The policies presented for revision are – 2:250, 3:50, 3:60, 4:45, 5:120, 5:290 and 6:15. These policies will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 3 meeting.

MJHS Proposed Social Studies Online Techbook –

Dr. Teater reported that the Jr. High Social Studies textbook committee has reviewed curriculum sources for a new curriculum resource for next year. The proposed techbook is an online source. He noted this is the first request for an online service, though the district is familiar with Discovery Education as teachers have used their resources for 10 years. For those students without a computer at home, a PDF file can be loaded onto their iPad. If approved, the district will purchase a 6-year service for \$45/student. As historical events occur, the techbook and resources will be updated throughout the 6-years in order that information remain current. The district will be replacing 8 and 11 year old textbooks.

A recommendation and report was presented to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and approved. A website link to information will be available for the community at the Morton Public Library for 30 days.

Recommendation:

Discovery Techbook is the student text recommended for purchase. Information may be accessed online at:

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com//what-we-offer/techbook-digital-textbooks/middle-school-social-studies/index.cfm>

Mrs. Scarfe was at the CAC presentation and noted that Dr. Wellenreiter gave a very in-depth demonstration of the online book.

Action Items –**Approve Computer Science Course - MHS –**

An overview of a new Computer Science Course at MHS was provided at the March 1 Board meeting and is now being brought to the Board for approval. This course would begin at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Details of the class have been presented to the Curriculum Advisory Council and have been discussed and approved by the District's Leadership Team.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education approve the addition of the Computer Science course at MHS for the 2016-2017 school year.

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve Bids for Jefferson Restrooms –

The primary restrooms at Jefferson School are the original restrooms built when the

addition was added in 1961. Base bids were requested along with three unit price alternates. The administration is recommending that only the base bid be accepted. Bids were received from four contractors ranging from \$171,110 to \$219,050 with George H. Rump Construction submitting the low bid.

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education accept the base bid from George H. Rump Construction in the amount of \$171,110.

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Approve MHS Parking Lot and Grundy Blacktop –

The MHS parking lot has not been repaved in over 20 years and has multiple potholes and extensive damage as a result of the former bus parking being located there. The areas in need of improvement include the main lot, the auditorium lot and the former bus lot, but do not include the lot at the South end of the building. In addition, the amount of lighting throughout the main parking area needs to be improved and updated to better and more energy efficient lights. The Grundy playground, which also has not been repaved in over 20 years, needs work as well. The asphalt has very little slope which has resulted in the pavement cracking and has caused damage to interior building spaces where water has pooled on this flat surface.

The base bid for all work was asphalt mill and overlay. The bid specifications requested a base price for the High School parking lot improvements, a base price for the Grundy playground improvements, 4 alternate bids for the High School and 1 alternate bid for Grundy. The only alternate that the administration is recommending is the alternate bid that provides concrete in place of mill and overlay for the portion of the parking lot where the main traffic flow occurs. This concrete surface will provide for a longer life in the high traffic areas where there is more weight and traffic from buses.

Bids were received from five civil contractors. The base bids plus alternate HS#2 ranged from \$819,728.42 to \$936,812.92, with William Aupperele & Sons Construction submitting the low bid.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education accept the base bid and alternate #HS2 from William Aupperele & Sons Construction in the amount of \$819,728.42

Roll Call:

Yea 6

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase/sale of property, litigation, negotiations and/or school building safety and security. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:53 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Heinold, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 9:15 p.m.


Adjournment -

Motion by Dr. Beaty, second by Mrs. Scarfe, that the meeting be adjourned.

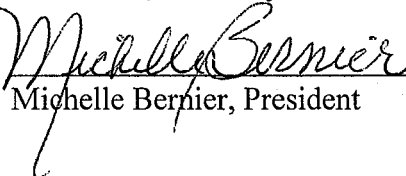
Voice Vote: Yea 6 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun Bill, Secretary



Michelle Bernier, President